

LETTERS AND
CORRESPONDENCE

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spontaneous remission (SR) of PRCA (Fig. 1). However, PRCA soon recurred. He required multiple red-cell transfusions thereafter.

Oral cyclosporine (CSA) therapy (4 mg/kg/day) was started in August 1995 [2,3]. Serum concentration of CSA was maintained at a range of 200–250 ng/ml. A reticulocyte response was seen within 10 days of initiation of CSA therapy. Three months later, the dose of CSA was reduced, and his hemoglobin level was successfully maintained at a dose of 1 mg/kg/day.

Although many reports have indicated that there are PRCA patients with thymoma [1,4], no patients with PRCA 12 years after thymectomy have been reported. Moreover, the spontaneous remission of idiopathic chronic PRCA is quite rare. This is also the first case of PRCA accompanied by transient SR, and this observation suggests that CSA should be the first drug given to such PRCA patients.

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Pure Red-Cell Aplasia Occurring 12 Years After Thymectomy: Successful Treatment With Cyclosporine

To the Editor: Pure red-cell aplasia (PRCA) is associated with 5% of thymoma patients [1]. To our knowledge, this is the first case of PRCA with 12 years' time-lag after thymectomy.

In August 1994, a 71-year-old man was hospitalized because of severe normocytic anemia. His laboratory studies showed a hematocrit value of 20.2%, hemoglobin of 7.0 g/l, and a reticulocyte count of 2,030/mm³. Bone marrow (BM) examination revealed the presence of red-cell aplasia with normal granulopoiesis and megakaryopoiesis. No evidence of recurrence of thymoma was shown on chest X-ray film and CT scan. The diagnosis of PRCA was made, and he was followed without specific therapy. Six months later his anemia disappeared spontaneously. BM examination revealed normal marrow, with recovery of erythroid precursors showing

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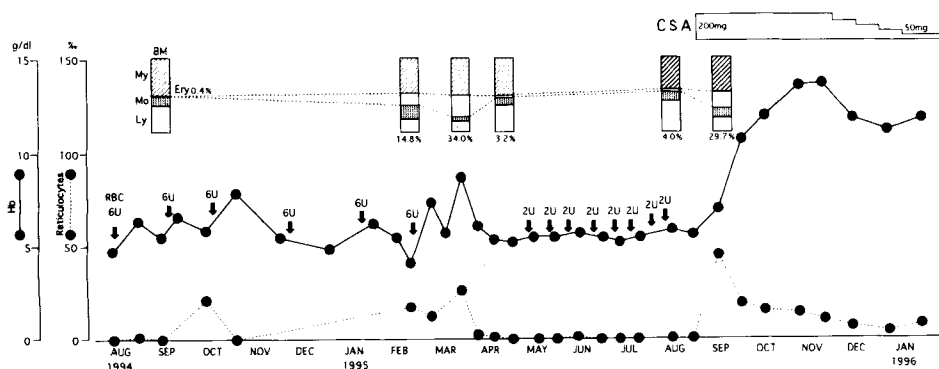


Fig. 1. Clinical course of patient's red-cell production and erythroid precursors in bone marrow. CSA, cyclosporine (total dose); BM, bone marrow; My, myeloid series; Ery, erythroid series; Mo, monocytosis; Ly, lymphocytes. Arrows indicate packed red cells.